

In re Patent Application of:
GORTY
Serial No. 10/776,423
Filing Date: February 11, 2004

In the Claims:

Claims 1-41 (CANCELLED)

42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system that provides configuration data for a web service for remotely accessing electronic mail from the web service, comprising:

a user system that comprises a plurality of electronic mail (email) clients for accessing a respective plurality of source mailboxes, said user system further comprising a source of mailbox configuration data corresponding to the configuration parameters required to configure access to the plurality of source mailboxes;

a web service that can be configured to allow a user to access the plurality of source mailboxes; and

a configuration module operative with the user system and web service and operative as an agent with the web service between the user system and an electronic mailbox of the user as a source mailbox and for automatically retrieving configuration parameters that are based on conventions that are sets of email expressions chosen by an email provider and used for accessing an electronic mailbox of the email provider from the source of mailbox configuration data and transmitting said configuration parameters to the web service for allowing the web service to be configured to access the plurality of source mailboxes without user intervention requiring the user to provide any configuration parameters, said configuration module comprising an import module having a plurality of mailbox import agents corresponding to the respective email clients at the user agent for retrieving mailbox configuration

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data from the source of mailbox configuration data at the user system and generating respective configuration data objects for each respective mailbox based on the configuration parameters and a web service interface module for interfacing with the web service through the web service.

43. (ORIGINAL) The system according to Claim 42, wherein a web service comprises an internet service provider (ISP) that uses configuration data for accessing electronic mail from another internet service provider.

44. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system according to Claim 42, wherein a mailbox comprises ~~a gateway window~~ an interface that uses configuration data on-the-fly for accessing an electronic mailbox.

45. (ORIGINAL) The system according to Claim 42, and further comprising a web service interface module that formats data objects as distributed object modules for submission to a web service.

46. (ORIGINAL) The system according to Claim 42, wherein said user system comprises a web browser or email client.

47. (ORIGINAL) The system according to Claim 42, wherein said user system comprises a personal computer or mobile communications device.

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48. (ORIGINAL) The system according to Claim 42, wherein the configuration module is implemented as a component object module.

49. (ORIGINAL) The system according to Claim 42, wherein the component object module is implemented as an ActiveX control.

50. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of providing configuration data for a web service for remotely accessing electronic mail from the web service, which comprises:

providing a user system that comprises a plurality of electronic mail (email) clients for accessing a respective plurality of source mailboxes, wherein the user system further comprises a source of mailbox configuration data corresponding to the configuration parameters required to configure access to the plurality of source mailboxes; and

configuring a web service to allow a user to access the plurality of source mailboxes using a configuration module that is operative with the user system and web service and operative as an agent with the web service between the user system and an electronic mailbox of the user as a source mailbox and by automatically retrieving configuration parameters that are based on conventions that are sets of email expressions chosen by an email provider and used for accessing an electronic mailbox of the email provider from the source of mailbox configuration data and transmitting the configuration parameters to the web service for allowing the web service to be configured to access the plurality of source mailboxes without user intervention requiring the user to

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provide any configuration parameters, wherein the configuration module further comprises an import module having a plurality of mailbox import agents corresponding to the respective email clients at the user agent for retrieving mailbox configuration data from the source of mailbox configuration data and generating respective configuration data objects for each respective mailbox based on the configuration parameters and a web service interface module for interfacing with a web service through the web service.

51. (ORIGINAL) The method according to Claim 50, which further comprises forming a web service as an internet service provider (ISP) and using configuration data for accessing electronic mail from another internet service provider.

52. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to Claim 50, which further comprises forming ~~a gateway window~~ an interface that uses configuration data on-the-fly for accessing an electronic mailbox.

53. (ORIGINAL) The method according to Claim 50, which further comprises formatting data objects as distributed object modules for submission to a web service.

54. (ORIGINAL) The method according to Claim 50, which further comprises implementing the configuration module as a component object module.

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55. (ORIGINAL) The method according to Claim 50, which further comprises implementing the component object module as an ActiveX control.